


Dendrocnide sinuata

<i>Dendrocnide sinuata</i>	
	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Rosales
Family:	Urticaceae
Genus:	<i>Dendrocnide</i>
Species:	<i>D. sinuata</i>
Binomial name	
<i>Dendrocnide sinuata</i> (Blume) Chew	
Synonyms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Urtica sinuata</i> Blume • <i>Laportea crenulata</i> (Roxb.) Gaud. 	

Dendrocnide sinuata (meaning "tree nettle" with "wavy leaf margin" in Greek) is a poisonous plant called *pulutus, pulus*, **stinging tree**, **fever nettle**, Wikipedia:Citation needed or **elephant nettle**, growing in subtropical wet evergreen forests throughout Asia. Some of its uses in herbal medicine have been scientifically validated.

Vernacular names

This species is well known in many languages throughout Asia, including;

- Assamese: Sirnat, *Sorat*; Bengali: Chorpatha; Lepcha: *Mealumma*, *Ongyalop*, *Sunkroug*; Nepali: Moringe;
- Tamil: *Anachoriya*, *Anaimeratti* ('*that which threatens elephants*'), *Ottarbala*, *Otta-pilavu* (ஓட்டா-பில் வு), *Anaichorian* (ஆனச்சொரியன்);
- Malayalam: *Anamayakki* (ആനമയക்கി), *Aanavanangi* (ആനവണങ്ങി), *Aanayaviratti* (ആനയവെരിരട്ടി), *Anachoriyanam* (ആനചൊറിയണം), *Kattanplavu* (കട്തപ്ലാവ്);
- Kannada: *Malai Murugan.*; Hindi: *Morange*, *Utigun*;
- Chinese: Quan Yuan Huo Ma Shu and Thai: Kalangtang Chang .

Distribution

This nettle grows along streams and among understorey trees in wet evergreen forests between 300 metres (980 ft) – 850 metres (2,790 ft) but up to 1,200 metres (3,900 ft) elevation. It is found in the forests of the Western Ghats of South India, Sri Lanka, Bihar, Northeast India and onwards into Burma. Bhutan. Sikkim, Thailand, Malaysia and (S Guangdong, SW Guangxi, Hainan, S Xizang and SW Yunnan provinces of China)

This nettle is a major shrub species in the tropical evergreen forests of the lower reaches of Khasi Hills and Garo hills of Meghalaya, India, up to 1,200 metres (3,900 ft). There is a camp named 'Sessni' in Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in the Himalayan foothills of West Kameng District in Arunachal Pradesh, India, which in the Nishi peoples language means Nettle. The place is filled with nettle on either side of the road.

Description

The plants are large shrubs or small trees up to 5 metres (16 ft) tall.

The bark is white and smooth with lenticellate blaze.

Whitish. branchlets are terete (cylindrical and circular in cross section) with glandular **stinging hairs**.

Leaves are simple, alternate, spiral, with stipule caducous (falling off prematurely or easily) and leaving scar

Petiole is 2–6 centimetres (0.79–2.36 in) long, terete, with glandular stinging hairs.

Lamina parts of the leaves are 9.5–34 centimetres (3.7–13.4 in) x 2–11.5 centimetres (0.79–4.53 in), narrow oblanceolate to elliptic, apex acuminate, base attenuate-cuneate to obtuse, margin subentire or crenulate, coriaceous, with glandular stinging hairs; midrib raised above; secondary_nerves 8-11 pairs; tertiary nerves distantly obliquely percurrent.

Flowers with inflorescence axillary panicles, drooping, to 20 centimetres (7.9 in) long. Flowers are unisexual, sessile.

Fruit and seed are achenes.

Medical

Upon contact with skin the nettle causes a painful itch, hives, fever and chills, skin depressions and clamminess which can recur over 10 days to six months. About 1820, Jean Baptiste Louis Claude Theodore Leschenault de la Tour, the French botanist, described the pain caused by the nettle to be like "rubbing my fingers with hot iron". Jean Baptiste also suffered jaw muscle contractions so severe that he feared he had tetanus.

It's not sure what toxin in the plant causes such severe reactions but formic acid, serotonin, histamine, oxalic acid and tartaric acid are some of the suspects. When the antidote lime juice or turmeric is smeared on the affected areas apparently the symptoms immediately subside.

The juice of the root is reported to be used in chronic fevers. The roots are also boiled in water and the decoction is given to cure jaundice. The roots and leaves are used to prepare poultice and applied to heal boils, carbuncles,

wounds, burns and rashes. The root extract has strong antibacterial activity against both Gram (+) and Gram (-) bacteria due to presence of 2a, 3, 21, 24, 28-pentahydroxy-olean-12-enes.

Dendrocnide sinuata has been used as medicine for curing diverse ailments including fever, chronic fever, malaria, dysentery, urinary disorder, Irregular menstruation, swelling, blind abscesses and hypersensitivity by most ethnic tribal communities of North East India including the Nishi, Apatani, Adibasi, Karbis, Dimasa, Khasi and Rieng.

The stem-bark yields a strong cordage fibre. The fiber is also used to make coarse cloth. The flowers are reported to be used in curries in North Lakhimpur, Assam. The seeds are chewed to freshen breath.

References

Additional sources

- Anonymous. 1962. Wealth of India, Raw Materials, 6: 34-35. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi.
- Chopra, R.N., S.L. Nayar & I.C. Chopra. 1956. Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants, p. 150. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi.
- Rahman, M.M., A. Khan, M.E. Haque & M.M. Rahman. 2008. Antimicrobial and cytotoxic activities of *Laportea crenulata*. *Fitoterapia* 79: 584-586

Article Sources and Contributors

Dendrocnide sinuata *Source:* <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=605586972> *Contributors:* Asarelah, ChrisGualtieri, Eumolpo, Jrtayloriv, Kalyanvarma, Macropneuma, Marcus334, Ohconfucius, Peter coxhead, Rjwilmsi, Rkitko, Sminthopsis84, Stemonitis, Vinayaraj, Viswaprabha, Xeteli, 1 anonymous edits

Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

File:Dendrocnide sinuata plant.jpg *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Dendrocnide_sinuata_plant.jpg *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 3.0
Contributors: User:Vinayaraj

License

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0
[//creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)
